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## News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **Lt. Governor Peter Kinder Urges Lawmakers to Pass Sales Tax Holiday Bill**

*Gives Consumers an Added Benefit to Spend Tax Rebates in Local Communities*

**WASHINGTON, D.C.** – Lt. Governor Peter Kinder today urged members of the Missouri House of Representative to agree to and pass House Bill 2250, a bill which will create a state sales tax holiday June 27-29, 2008.

The proposed tax holiday will be a one time event, separate from Missouri's annual tax holiday occurring the first weekend in August. This sales tax holiday was built around Congress' Economic Stimulus package, sending non-taxable rebate checks in amounts ranging from \$300 to \$1200.

"In a few months, the IRS will be sending federal income tax rebate checks to more than 130 million families in the United States," said Kinder. "Missourians will have a choice where they will spend their tax rebate. I believe we should create an incentive for Missouri residents to spend their rebate in their local communities. I want to ensure these rebate checks are tax free, giving Missourians the full amount to spend on goods and services for their families."

The legislation, sponsored by Rep. Mike Sutherland (R-Warrenton), would create a state sales tax holiday during a three-day period beginning on June 27 and ending at midnight on June 29.

"Lt. Governor Kinder's leadership on this bill is beneficial for all Missourians," said Rep. Sutherland. "This sales tax holiday will help keep more money in the hands of Missouri taxpayers, adding more buying power to their checkbooks."

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Retail items with a sales price of \$600 or less would be exempt from all state and local sales tax.

“I am grateful for Rep. Sutherland’s effort on this issue, and I encourage members of the House to quickly pass this bill,” said Kinder. “Together, we can help strengthen Missouri’s economy as taxpayers receive the hard-earned rebates they deserve.”

The bill also establishes the Show-Me Green Tax Holiday Act which authorizes a state sales tax exemption on the purchase of Energy Star rated, energy efficient appliances purchased during a seven-day period each November.

Missouri Retailers Association president Dave Overfelt said that a state sales tax holiday would strengthen the local economy in communities throughout the state.

“Locally owned businesses in Missouri would have an added incentive to bring customers through the door,” Overfelt said. “With the legislature’s quick approval, retailers would be prepared to serve additional consumers during the tax holiday.”

House Bill 2250 was referred to the House Rules Committee today for review.

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